



BLM-MONTANA/DAKOTAS
MONTANA STATE OFFICE • 5001 SOUTHGATE DRIVE • BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101 • WWW.BLM.GOV/MT

Bureau of Land Management-Rules and Regulations

The following addresses the most commonly asked questions regarding public lands administered by the BLM in the Montana/Dakotas.

The Bureau of Land Management's recreation and visitor services program is focused on providing recreation opportunities and beneficial experiences while managing public lands in stewardship for present and future generations. Public land belongs to all citizens and following these rules will help ensure that cultural and natural resources are maintained for everyone to experience.

Motor Vehicles

Remember, it is your responsibility to know where, when, and by what means (motorcycle, ATV, etc.) you may travel on public lands. Your cooperation keeps roads and trails open.

Except in special designated areas, it is prohibited to:

- Operate motor vehicles off established roads and trails.
- Drive cross-country and/or hill climb.
- Make new roads/trails.
- Operate motor vehicles in a reckless or negligent manner.
- Cause any environmental damage.
- Operate ANY motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Operate motor vehicles without proper head and tail lights at night.
- Violate any state vehicle laws.

Rules of Conduct on Public Lands

The following rules of conduct and information are based on resource protection and common sense actions to protect lives and resources.

It is prohibited to:

- Litter or dump household, commercial or hazardous waste.

- Leave property unattended longer than 10 days (includes hunting campers).
- Camp in one location longer than 16 days. You must move at least half a mile away to start a new camp.
- Create a risk or public disturbance.
- Create a hazard and/or a nuisance.
- Resist arrest and/or an issuance of citation.
- Make false statements to Law Enforcement Officer.
- Have in possession a controlled substance.
- Violate state laws regarding the use and possession of alcohol.
- Deface, remove or destroy property, structures, plants, rocks, minerals, etc. (Small amounts of non-cultural or paleontological specimens may be collected for personal use, if no resource damage occurs.)

Use Authorization or Permits

All commercial and organized events/activities require use authorizations. This includes hunting and fishing outfitting. Visit or call your nearest BLM office for details.

Fire Prevention

Within a posted developed recreation site, you may build a fire only in a stove, grill or designated fire ring. All other areas require a fire ring constructed in a clear area free from flammable debris. All campfires must be supervised at all times and be properly extinguished.

Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA)

Anything over 100 years old is considered a cultural artifact and therefore its removal or destruction without authorization is prohibited. No surface collection or disturbance of any cultural materials is allowed on public lands. This includes surface collection of arrowheads (under 43 CFR 8365.1-5(a)(1)). **All** surface collection, disturbance, excavation and/or digging for artifacts are prohibited.

Paleontological Resources

The law distinguishes between vertebrate (dinosaurs or animals) and invertebrate (seashells, etc.) fossils. Reasonable amounts of invertebrate fossils may be collected from the surface for personal use (not for sale). Vertebrate fossil collection (dinosaur bones) is prohibited. All excavation or digging for either type of fossil is illegal.

Mineral Resources (Rock, Sand, Gravel)

Reasonable amounts of minerals resources may be collected with a permit for personal use, if collection can be accomplished without causing resource damage. Contact the local BLM office if you have any questions regarding amounts or locations.

Firewood Cutting

The collection of firewood, except for the purpose of campfires, is prohibited unless a firewood permit is in your immediate possession. Permits are available at your local BLM Office.

Target Shooting

Target shooting is a viable recreational activity on public lands in areas that provide a proper backstop and are not in conflict with other uses. Shooting must be done in a safe manner that does not endanger people, livestock, or property. Remove **ALL** trash when you leave. This includes all targets, cans, bottles, as well as spent shell casings.

State Laws

All state and county laws are enforceable on public lands administered by the BLM. These include, but are not limited to:

- All state Game and Fish regulations
- Possession of alcohol by minors
- All state motor vehicle laws

Additional Federal Regulations

Citations will be issued for any violations of the following regulations:

- Creating a hazard or nuisance (43 CFR 8365.1-4(a)(2))
- Littering (43 CFR 8365.1-1(b))
- Resource Damage (43 CFR 8365.1-5(a)(1))

Always know where you are and what rules apply. Contact BLM at (406) 896-5004 or www.blm.gov/mt for more information, free brochures or to purchase maps.

To report violations call toll free (800) 826-3023.

Record the following details about the violation and make sure you do not endanger yourself by approaching individuals engaged in illegal activities:

- Date
- Time
- Location
- Vehicle license plate number
- Description of the vehicle
- Description of the resource crime

Enjoy your opportunities on public lands.